5. A meeting-cum workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism was convened by the Department of Health on 29th October, 2001 in New Delhi. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

Population control in far-flung areas

4098. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have developed a unique technology to spread of the message of population control and to solve health problems in far-flung villages of the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed programme;

(c) to what extent it would help in checking the population control; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National policy for prevention and control of AIDS

4099. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have annouced a National Policy for prevention and control of AIDS and the National Blood Policy for safe use of blood;

(b) if so, whether this policy will help in creating a social environment for providing care and support to HIV-infected people;

(c) if so, the other main features of this policy; and

(d) to what extent it has so far been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The policy has been approved by Government on 02.4.2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The salient features of National Policy for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and the National Blood Policy are as under:—

(i) To realfirm Government's commitment for prevention and control of HIV infection and reduce its social impact.

(ii) To generate a feeling of ownership among all the participants, both in the Government and civil society, by treating it as a developmental issue and not merely as a public health programme.

(iii) To promote an enabling social environment for prevention of HIV/AIDS and for providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS by protecting their human rights including right to access health care system, right to education, employment and privacy.

(iv) To enlarge community mobilisation by enlisting support of a large number of NGOs and community-based Organisations.

(v) To prevent women, children and other socially vulnerable groups from becoming infected by HIV/AIDS by improving health education, legal status and economic prospects.

(vi) To promote better understanding of HIV infection among young people, especially students, by educational programmes, aimed at adopting safe behavioural practices.

(vii) To bring horizontal integration with other national programmes like Reproductive and Child Health, TB Control, Integrated Child Development and primary health care system.

(viii) To ensure availability of adequate and safe blood and blood products for the general population through promotion of voluntary blood donation and rational use of blood.

(d) The programme for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS is in operation for the last ten years which includes the various initiatives stated in the policy document.

WHO funding for TB research projects

4100. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is expecting liberal funding from the World Health Organisation towards tuberculosis research projects;